

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 09195 041215Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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S E C R E T ROME 9195

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR, HU, VT
SUBJ: VATICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

REF: STATE 122277

1. IN ACCORD WITH REFTEL WE CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI JUNE 3 AND PROVIDED HIM WITH ADDITIONAL POINTS WHICH ENGENDERED OUR REVIEW OF CROWN QUESTION.
2. CASAROLI NOTED CAREFULLY OUR PRESENTATION AND STATED THAT POPE PAUL HAS BEEN INFORMED ABOUT OUR MAY 20 DISCUSSION, BUT BEFORE HE GIVES HIS FORMAL VIEWS HE HAS ASKED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE VATICAN BRIEF ON THE SUBJECT. CASAROLI SAID THAT HIS OFFICE HAS ALREADY BEGUN SUCH A BRIEF CENTERING AROUND TWO PERSPECTIVES (1) JURIDICALLY OWNERSHIP OF CROWN AND (2) PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT "TO WHOM" AND "WHEN" WOULD THE CROWN BE RETURNED ARE KEY QUESTIONS. HE ALSO ALLOWED THAT OUR PRESENTATION OF SUBJECT WAS TIMELY BECAUSE KADAR MIGHT RAISE IT WITH POPE DURING AUDIENCE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK.

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3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT FORMIN CASAROLI IS INCLINED TO GIVE A POSITIVE ANSWER TO OUR QUERY BUT THAT POPE PAUL CONSIDERS "TIMING" NOT PROPITIOUS. CASAROLI COMMENTED THAT WHILE A SORT OF "MODUS VIVENDI" HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN VATICAN AND HUNGARY AND CHURCH AND STATE IN HUNGARY, IT LACKED SOLID FOUNDATIONS AND APPEARED TO DEPEND SUBSTANTIALLY ON THE PRESENCE OF KADAR HIMSELF AT

THE HELM. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD FORE-
SEE A MORE FORMAL RELATIONSHIP (ALONG YUGOSLAV MODEL)
WITH HUNGARY, A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THIS WOULD HAVE
TO WAIT THE FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH KADAR. IN SUM, WE
BELIEVE THAT POPE'S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE RETURN OF CROWN
TO HUNGARY WILL BE SHAPED TO A GREAT EXTENT BY SUBSTANTIVE
RESULTS OF KADAR VISIT. GARDNER

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